

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
JANUARY 8, 2015  
MINUTES

**Approved**  
**5/14/15**

**COMMISSIONERS**

**Jean G. Champommier, Ph.D., Chairperson\*\***

Crystal D. Crawford, J.D., Vice-Chair\*

Waleed W. Shindy M.D., M.P.H.\*

Michelle Anne Bholat, M.D., M.P.H. \*

Patrick Dowling, M.D., M.P.H.\*

**DEPARTMENT OF PL**

Dr. Jeffrey Gunzenhau

Evelina Villa, Interim Public Health Commission Staff\*

Public Health Commission

**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION ADVISOR**

Cynthia Harding, Interim Director\*\*

Carrie Brumfield, Chief of Staff\*

**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION YOUTH ADVISOR**

Vacant

***\*Present \*\*Excused \*\*\*Absent***

<b><u>TOPIC</u></b>	<b><u>DISCUSSION/FINDINGS</u></b>	<b><u>RECOMMENDATION/ACTION/ FOLLOW-UP</u></b>
<b>I. Call to Order</b>	The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:22 am by Vice-Chairperson Crawford at the Central Public Health Center	Information Only.
<b>II. Announcements &amp; Introductions</b>	Introductions of Commissioners and guests were conducted.	Information Only.
<b>III. Approval of Minutes</b>	Minutes will be approved at the next meeting when Chairperson Champommier is present.	
<b>IV. Public Health Report</b>	<p>Carrie Brumfield provided the Commission with a Public Health Report and discussed recent public health activities.</p> <p><b><u>Board Motion to Consolidate the Departments of: Public Health, Health Services, and Mental Health</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ms. Brumfield informed the Commission that there has been a recent Board motion (initiated by Supervisor Antonovich) to consolidate the Departments of: Health Services (DHS), Public Health (DPH), and Mental Health (DMH).</li></ul>	

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**Public Health Report  
(continued)**

- Motion seeks to consolidate the three Departments to enhance collaboration and better integrate various health services, such as: mental health, substance abuse, etc.
- The Department should have more information within the next 60 days. Immediate details are currently unknown.
- Some background information on the 2006 DHS/DPH split:
  - The Breslow Report- examined DPH when it was under DHS, between 1972-2006 and supported the degradation of DPH due to both departments serving two different missions, as well as:
    - Funding streams between the two Departments
    - After an assessment/evaluation (conducted by LAC CEO), DPH became an independent Department
  - Since the split, DPH has done some great work
  - Ms. Brumfield passed out Board memo from August 2014 which highlights milestones accomplished under Dr. Fielding's leadership.
- *Vice-Chairperson Crawford asked if the consolidation was precipitated by the search for Dr. Fielding's replacement? Ms. Brumfield indicated that it is currently unknown.*
- Ms. Brumfield stressed the importance of the fact that DPH's work will still continue on regardless of the potential consolidation. She stated that individuals who work for DPH are passionate about public health and will ensure that the mission of the Department is carried out moving forward.

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- Ms. Brumfield indicated that she would keep the Commission apprised of any further information about this issue.
- *Commissioner Crawford asked if there has been any discussion about how the potential consolidation may relate to the Public Health Commission. Ms. Brumfield indicated that there has not been a discussion at this time.*
- *Commissioner Dowling inquired about the timeframe of the motion. Ms. Brumfield stated that the Board motion indicated that January 13, 2015 is when it will be decided to approve the concept as well as instruct DHS to report back w/in 60 days with a proposed organizational structure.*

**California Department of Public Health Review of Los Angeles County Health Facilities Inspection Division Update-** provided by Terri Williams, Assistant Director of Environmental Health

- The Health Facilities Inspection Division (HFID) program was put under Ms. Williams' leadership last year to help maximize and enhance the program's effectiveness.
- The update included a letter that was sent to the State regarding HFID's strategic Workload Plan that was developed to clarify the amount of work that HFID staff will be able to complete, while ensuring quality assurance and protecting public health.
- Ms. Williams updated the Commission about a work plan that was created by DPH staff to strategically address HFID's workload moving forward. She explained how LA County receives 15% of

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the State's budget allocated to Health Facilities, yet oversees 33% of the facilities Statewide, highlighting how severely under staffed and under resourced LA County remains. Therefore, in order to ensure that quality work is completed, DPH used the State's staffing model to create a plan that addresses the amount of quality work that staff will be able to complete due to the lack of resources. The determined amount of work that HFID staff is able to complete is 50%. Ms. Williams and Cindy Harding have shared this information with the State accordingly as well as meeting with respective Board offices to keep them apprised of the situation.

- The State, however, would like HFID to continue to complete mandated surveys, although HFID has expressed the lack of resources do not allow HFID to complete these surveys without compromising quality assurance.
- In a letter dated December 22, 2014, HFID sent the State (CDPH) notification that HFID will continue to follow the Work plan until written notification that instructs otherwise, is received from the State.
- In the meantime, HFID will continue to complete the work according to the Work Plan provided to the State, with the current staff levels. If HFID attempts to complete what the State wants, HFID feels that public health is being jeopardized.
- *Commissioner Crawford commended Ms. Williams for her hard work and leadership in improving HFID. Ms. Crawford also requested for Ms. Williams to let the Commission know how it can be supportive of HFID activities in the near future.*

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<p><b>V. Environmental Health Presentation</b></p>	<p><b><u>Exide Update provided by Angelo Bellomo, Director of Environmental Health</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background Information</li> <li>• Exide timeline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1922's: Facility operations begin</li> <li>○ 1940's: Smoke and "smog" issues emerge</li> <li>○ 1970's: Regulatory reforms; State 1972, Federal 1976</li> <li>○ 1990's: Growing concerns</li> <li>○ 2000's - present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Greater regulatory scrutiny</li> <li>○ Bankruptcy</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• 2013 Report by Environ to do risk assessment to determine risk to community surrounding</li> <li>• Highest risk is estimated to be in the South Coast inter basin</li> <li>• County's objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ DPH to collaborate with other agencies to ensure cleanup of homes affected by contamination</li> <li>○ Voluntary or forced closure of Exide</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Northern/Southern Assessment areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Results have shown that 100 homes between these two areas have been tested and categorized as Priority 1, 2, 3</li> <li>○ Most homes in the area are considered a Priority 1 or 2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Summary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Emissions from Exide present elevated health risks to members of the adjoining community</li> <li>○ Facility does not meet design and operating standards</li> <li>○ Poor compliance history</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
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**Questions**

- *Commissioner Shindy expressed concern about other companies in LA County becoming a similar problem. He asked how about how examine and address the issue before it becomes a problem the magnitude of Exide?*
  - *Mr. Bellomo stated that there is some assurance. He mentioned that there are various facilities in the State of California that are given temporary permits. Exide was the exception, since the permit was not issued properly by the State and has remained temporary status.*
- *Commissioner Dowling asked if any homes or schools in the areas have been evacuated?*
  - *Mr. Bellomo stated that no homes have been evacuated*
- *Commissioner Dowling also asked what is being done about the schools in the areas?*
  - *Mr. Bellomo stated that there are plans currently underway. DPH went out and replicated all of the sampling and determined that there are currently no emergency conditions. If any actionable levels are assessed, the situation will be dealt with immediately.*
  - *Mr. Bellomo stressed the fact that DPH would not hesitate to evacuate locations if a true emergency was determined. At this time, there is a sense of urgency to get the work fully done so that we can know how many homes are Priority one.*
  - *Mr. Bellomo also stressed the fact that DPH (Health Officer) to ensure that homeworkers are advised pending the cleanup, what measures they can take.*
- *Commissioner Bholat asked for more historical background regarding Exide—what City is it located what agency owns/operates it, etc.?*

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Mr. Bellomo stated that Exide is located in the City of Vernon. The City possesses the land use approval/ability to regulate activities. Exide's functionality is a primarily a secondary smelter. Exide takes batteries (from the federal government, national defense, personal, commercial, entities, etc.) and melts them down, extracts them, and produces batteries under the name Exide batteries. As far as who/what agency owns Exide, Mr. Bellomo stated that the facility has a long history of being passed off to one owner to another.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Commissioner Bholat asked Dr. Cyrus Rangan what type of (long-term) impact would one expect to see from patients coming from the community ?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Dr. Rangan stated that he would expect to see potential for lead exposure. To address this, testing of blood levels in young children and adults have been conducted. So far, all levels have shown to be within normal range. These results indicate that there is not an urgent issue at the moment, but this does not indicate that it will not become an urgent issue over time.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <i>Commissioner Shindy asked if we can perhaps look at cancer registry data?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Dr. Rangan stated that DPH has looked at cancer registry data at USC and the data does not suggest that Exide is responsible for more cancer in any other area.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <i>Vice Chair Crawford thanked Mr. Bellomo and Dr. Rangan for an excellent, informative presentation.</i></li> </ul>	
<b>VI. New Business</b>	<p><b><u>The Election of Officers will take place at the next Public Health Commission meeting when Dr. Champommier is present.</u></b></p>	

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	<p><b><u>2015 Presentations:</u></b></p> <p>The Commissioners were provided with handouts that reflected 2014 program presentations. Evelina Villa, PHC staff, informed the Commission of the already scheduled 2015 presentations and agreed to share these with the Commissioners via email. Ms. Villa also reminded the Commissioners that next month's (February) meeting will be held offsite, at the Public Health Lab in Downey.</p> <p>Additionally, potential meeting presentation ideas that were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Combine Torrance/Glendale SPA's</li> <li>- SPA 1 presentation</li> <li>- Already scheduled: PHL, Parks after Dark update, Lead program, ACDC, CMS, Departmental Initiative to address healthy housing/social determinates</li> <li>- Homeless Coordinator/tour</li> </ul>	
<b>VII. Unfinished Business</b>	<p><b><u>Amend the Bylaws to reflect:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Remove Youth Advisor role</li> <li>o Change in Public Health Commission meetings: One meeting per month (Motion was held/passed at the October 23, 2014 meeting)</li> </ul> <p><b><i>MOTION: AMEND THE BYLAWS TO REFLECT ONE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING PER MONTH (BEGINNING JANUARY 2015) WITH THE STIPULATION THAT THE COMMISSION WILL MEET IN THE EVENT THAT A SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE ARISES.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>MOTION TO AMEND THE BYLAWS TO REFLECT THE REMOVAL OF THE YOUTH ADVISOR ROLE</i></b></p>	<p><i>The motion passed with Vice-Chairperson Crawford initiating the motion; Commissioner Shindy seconded the motion; motion passed with none opposing.</i></p> <p><i>The motion passed with Commissioner Bholat, Dowling and the remainder of the Commission voting in favor by saying yes.</i></p>



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<p><b>Unfinished Business (continued)</b></p>	<p><b><u>Discuss WebEx/teleconferencing Meetings</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Villa provided the Commissioners with handout (provided by County Counsel from a recent Brown Act training conference), and focused the attention to the portion that discusses teleconferencing.</li> <li>- Ms. Villa discussed the following with the Commissioners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teleconference meetings can be conducted, but they must be conducted in ordinance with the Brown Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ At least a quorum of members must participate from locations within LA County</li> <li>○ An agenda must be posted at each location and visible for the public</li> <li>○ The address of each location must be listed in the notice and agenda</li> <li>○ Each location must be fully accessible to the public</li> <li>○ Each location must be ADA-compliant</li> <li>○ The public's right to testify at each location must be ensured</li> <li>○ All votes must be conducted by roll call.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The Commissioners indicated that they would be interested in utilizing teleconference options in the near future.</p>	<p><i>Evelina Villa to inquire about what technology will be needed in order to pursue future teleconferences.</i></p>
<p><b>V. Adjournment</b></p>	<p>The meeting adjourned at 11:34 AM</p>	